

This is when Dr. Richter sprang into action, first submitting visa applications for his staff and scholars. When the timeline for evacuation shrank from months to weeks to days, he worked around the clock to find them a seat on one of the planes leaving Hamid Karzai International Airport. Dr. Richter had firsthand experience with the chaos of an evacuation—he himself was airlifted out of South Sudan when a civil war broke out in 2013.

Thankfully, his tireless efforts paid off. The GRAIN program scholars and their families made it onto our convoy of buses and finally made it through the airport gates after multiple attempts and nearly 24 harrowing hours. Madam Speaker, words alone can't express my gratitude for everything that Dr. Richter did—and continues to do—for the individuals that he vouched for. Simply put, his advocacy saved lives and it deserves to be recognized by a grateful community and nation.

Madam Speaker, I rise to honor Mr. Kurt Richter for his willingness to go above and beyond the call of duty in our effort to evacuate Afghan allies from Kabul and support them in their new life. For his efforts to identify vulnerable scientists, particularly female scholars, when they feared for their lives and for his character that faithfully upholds the values of Michigan State University, I submit these words—may they stand as a tribute to his dedicated service when the moment called for it most.

IN SPECIAL RECOGNITION OF
PERRYSBURG HIGH SCHOOL FOR
WINNING THE DIVISION I GIRLS
STATE CROSS-COUNTRY CHAM-
PIONSHIP

HON. ROBERT E. LATTA

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 7, 2021

Mr. LATTA. Madam Speaker, it is with a great deal of pride that I rise to pay a very special tribute to an outstanding high school cross-country team in Ohio's Fifth Congressional District. The young women of the Perrysburg High School girls' cross-country team have represented their school ably on their way to becoming the Champions of the Division I Girls State Cross-Country Championship. The Perrysburg Yellow Jackets overcame the challenges of intense competition on the path to reach the championship, capping off an outstanding season with their noteworthy performance.

In pursuing the State Championship, the Perrysburg Yellow Jackets defeated their outstanding competitors to win the state cross-country title. The Yellow Jackets ran an impressive final meet that highlighted the perseverance they have demonstrated throughout their trip to the championship. Each member of this very special team has shown the individual effort that their sport requires for a successful team result. As a direct consequence of their hard work and dedication, they achieved an impressive season record that brought pride to their community.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in paying special tribute to the Perrysburg High School cross-country team. On behalf of the people of the Fifth District of Ohio, I am proud to recognize this great achievement.

CONGRATULATING ALEXIS LEONE
FOR WINNING THE WASHINGTON
STATE 1A GIRLS CROSS COUN-
TRY CHAMPIONSHIP

HON. JAIME HERRERA BEUTLER

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 7, 2021

Ms. HERRERA BEUTLER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend and congratulate Alexis Leone of Seton Catholic High School for winning the Washington state 1A girls cross country championship. The COVID-19 pandemic limited many of our prep athletes from competing during the 2020 season, yet high school athletes like Alexis have demonstrated the ability to adapt and persevere in these competitions. For Alexis, that perseverance has paid off in a big way.

Competing in prep sports is a wonderful opportunity to learn lessons in discipline, focus, team play, work ethic and comradery. Winning a state title is a momentous achievement Alexis can be proud of for the rest of her life, and I have confidence she will find success using the lessons she learned while competing in cross country. Go Cougars.

CARRIE MEEK: THE SUNSHINE
STATE'S PUBLIC SERVANT

HON. KWEISI MFUME

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 7, 2021

Mr. MFUME. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize a champion for all people, a fighter for fair housing, an unrelenting advocate, and an American trailblazer. This woman was a friend and was our colleague as a former member of this body. The champion I rise to salute today is the Honorable Carrie Mae Pittman Meek—the Sunshine State's Public Servant.

Congresswoman Meek was born the grandchild of a slave and daughter of a sharecropper. As the youngest of 12 children growing up in Tallahassee, Florida, she excelled in academics and used education to overcome systemic obstacles that were the routine reality of those times, including sexism, racism and discrimination.

After earning her undergraduate degree from Florida A&M University, Congresswoman Meek enrolled at the University of Michigan to earn her master's degree because Florida banned Black students from attending state graduate schools at that time, according to her Congressional biography. The state government would pay her out-of-state tuition "if we agreed to get out of Dodge," she once recalled.

The then-single mother of two started her professional career as a college professor and coach at Bethune Cookman University, then taught at her alma mater Florida A&M University, before taking her talents to Miami-Dade Community College as its first Black professor, associate dean and assistant to the vice president.

With a firm foundation as a college professor, our former colleague beat out 12 other candidates when she ran for the Florida state House in 1978. Just five years later, she became the first Black woman elected to the

Florida state Senate. Carrie would go on to leverage her state service into a successful U.S. House campaign in 1992. Alongside former Representatives Corrine Brown and Alcee Hastings, Carrie joined Congress as one of the first Black members elected from Florida since the Reconstruction Era.

As a member of the Appropriations Committee, Congresswoman Meek knew the importance of investing federal dollars to provide opportunities for all people and in all communities across this great nation. Her work ethic, thorough knowledge of the legislation before her, and mastery of the legislative process are as much a part of her legacy as her support for public education, affordable housing, and programs to prevent poverty.

As a fighter for women's rights, Congresswoman Meek worked to protect victims of stalking at the state level and focused Congress on important legislation like the Violence Against Women Act. Indeed, her effectiveness as a public servant was only rivaled by her warmth and grace. Warmth, grace, compassion, tenacity, and savvy are some aspects of the Sunshine State's Public Servant that we will always remember.

Congresswoman Meek recently passed away after living a full life of over 95 years. Her funeral services and homegoing celebration are taking place today as I stand before you in this Chamber.

Carrie is survived by her three children Lucia Davis-Raiford, Sheila Davis Kinui, and retired Congressman Kendrick B. Meek of Florida, as well as seven grandchildren and five great grandchildren. Her entire family will remain in our prayers. May they be comforted to know the courageous spirit of the Honorable Carrie Mae Pittman Meek lives on.

HONORING COMMANDER DAVID H.
MILLNER

HON. ELISSA SLOTKIN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 7, 2021

Ms. SLOTKIN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor an essential member of our team that worked to receive vulnerable Afghans when they arrived in Albania, Commander David Millner.

Commander Millner has served our nation honorably as a Navy officer for 19 years. In 2007, while attending the Naval Postgraduate School, he was recognized with the Admiral B.R. Inman Award for outstanding contribution to the field of maritime intelligence. He currently serves as the Senior Defense Officer and Attaché at our Embassy in Tirana, where he's responsible for liaising between our armed forces and his Albanian counterparts, which was instrumental as we coordinated the arrival of our group of Afghan refugees.

Simply put, the success of our mission depended on tireless commitment and devotion to the cause. Commander Millner spent long hours alongside Ambassador Kim to ensure that everything would proceed smoothly. He was there, on the tarmac, to help receive our group of evacuees when they first landed on Albanian soil. For his hard work and commitment during our mission, I am forever indebted to him.

As a career naval officer, Commander Millner would tell you that it's essential that

when we ask our allies to fight for us, it comes with the understanding that we will be there for them when they need it too. It's why he would tell you that his work to receive and shelter Afghans is simply our way of upholding the American handshake. We stand krah për krah, or side to side, with them, no matter the mission or the challenge.

Madam Speaker, I rise to honor Commander David Millner for his willingness to go above and beyond the call of duty in our effort to evacuate Afghan allies from Kabul and support them in their new life. For representing the best of our nation as he worked and for working around the clock to expedite requests and assist those who were in danger of losing life and limb,—may they stand as a tribute to his dedicated service when the moment called for it most.

HONORING 1ST LIEUTENANT
RONALD KIMLER, USAF

HON. A. DONALD McEACHIN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 7, 2021

Mr. McEACHIN. Madam Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to honor and recognize 1st Lt. Ronald Kimler for his service in the United States Air Force during World War II and the Korean War.

When he enlisted in the Air Force out of high school, 1st Lt. Kimler progressed through a challenging series of flight schools before earning his wings in May of 1944. After shipping out from Richmond, Virginia to Europe, he was primarily stationed in Belgium. During the Second World War, 1st Lt. Kimler flew 38 missions with the 9th Air Force, ranging from bombing supply trains to supporting troop deployments. When our nation engaged in the conflict in Korea, he answered the call and served in the Air Force for an additional year and nine months.

For his service, 1st Lt. Kimler earned numerous awards, including the Air Medal with three Oak Leaf Clusters, the American Campaign Medal, European-African-Middle Eastern Campaign Medal, the Army of Occupation Medal, and the World War II Victory Medal.

One lasting impact that stands out from his service was 1st Lt. Kimler's connection to his fellow airmen. In the face of risk-filled and challenging missions, they became, in 1st Lt. Kimler's words, "closer than blood relatives." This bond led 1st Lt. Kimler to regularly keep in touch with a number of his comrades, speaking with them several times a month over decades despite serving together more than 70 years ago.

While his service is deserving of high praise, notably earning the nickname "flak bait" for the number of times his plane was hit, 1st Lt. Kimler has always put the focus on his fellow servicemembers. Instead of glamorizing his own actions, he has always looked to memorialize the over four hundred thousand Americans who lost their lives in World War II. This attitude reflects the best nature of our country—Americans working together for a common cause and united in our gratitude for the sacrifice of our fellow countrymen.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing 1st Lt. Ronald Kimler for his devotion to the United States of America and

courageous service during the Second World War and the Korean War.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE EQUAL RIGHTS AMENDMENT

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 7, 2021

Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, fifty years ago this fall, Congress overwhelmingly passed the Equal Rights Amendment (ERA) that would ensure equality for women and prohibit discrimination based on sex, gender identity, and sexual orientation. In 2020, the ERA crossed its final hurdle to becoming a constitutional amendment when Virginia ratified it. Consequently, the ERA now meets the legal threshold for a constitutional amendment—to be ratified by 38 states. Without haste, the ERA must be certified and published.

Since WWII, women have been the backbone of the U.S. economy and nurturers to the nation, yet they do not enjoy equal protection under the law from discrimination based on sex. As the former Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia once commented, "Certainly the Constitution does not require discrimination on the basis of sex. The only issue is whether it prohibits it. It doesn't." Today, women hold the majority of jobs in the nation, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics. Yet their pay lags their White male counterparts. Analysis by the American Association of University Women found that White women earn just 79 percent compared to White men. The pay gap disparity is even greater for women of color, with Black women earning just 63 percent and Hispanic women earning a mere 55 percent compared to White men.

The structural disparities for women in the workforce go beyond simply lower pay. Regardless of the industry, women's labor continues to be undervalued. Studies show that once women enter an occupation in large numbers, wages for the occupation as a whole decline, particularly in the service industry which blatantly devalues women's contributions. And again, women of color are disproportionality impacted, with structural disparities for women of color in the labor force dating back to the end of slavery. Economic growth—both business and personal—boomed based on the exploitation of women of color. For Black women, they were forced laborers under slavery and then forced into low-paying, exploitive jobs. Similarly, Native American women experienced land theft and indentured servitude, robbing them of their economic power. These historical systems created the occupational segregation that persists today, where women of color get tracked into undervalued careers with little power and pay. The government has long failed to mandate that business owners extend basic protections to occupations dominated by women, all while relying on them to do the hardest, dirtiest, and most dangerous work—a trend that has been magnified by the COVID-19 pandemic.

It is long-past time to recognize the equal value of women and enact a constitutional amendment to address discrimination based on sex, sexual orientation, and gender in our

country. The ERA is necessary to remedy structural inequalities for women. The ERA would cause public and private industry to address pay inequalities, equal access to health care, and equal treatment under the law. The ERA would give women the right to demand equal protection via the courts.

Fifty years after passage, the vast majority of Americans support the ERA. Specifically, a recent poll by the National Opinion Research Center found that three-quarters of Americans back the ERA, including 90 percent of Democrats and 60 percent of Republicans. The House has passed legislation to eliminate an administrative barrier to certification and publishing of the ERA by removing the arbitrary deadline for the archivist to certify and publish the ERA. Now the Senate must do the same.

As we mark the 50th anniversary of the passage of the Equal Rights Amendment, I reaffirm my resolute commitment to certification and publishing of the ERA to make our country stronger by guaranteeing that women as a class are equal to men. Certifying the ERA is not just symbolic. It is a legal anchor to dismantle systematic discrimination based on sex, giving women and all marginalized genders another tool to achieve equality. The Senate must take action now to remove the arbitrary deadline for the archivist to certify and publish the ERA; pass S.J. Res. 1 now.

CONGRATULATING KALAMA HIGH SCHOOL'S FOOTBALL TEAM ON WINNING THE WASHINGTON STATE 2B CHAMPIONSHIP

HON. JAIME HERRERA BEUTLER

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 7, 2021

Ms. HERRERA BEUTLER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend and congratulate the Kalama High School football team for winning the Washington state 2B championship. After trailing for most of the game, the Chinooks managed to take the lead over rival Napavine in the closing minutes for an exciting win to complete their undefeated season. The COVID-19 pandemic limited many of our high school athletes from competing during the 2020 season, yet these individuals persevered and demonstrated adaptability and competitiveness. For the Chinooks, that perseverance paid off in a big way.

Competing in prep sports is a wonderful opportunity to learn lessons in discipline, focus, team play, work ethic, and comradery. Winning a state title is a momentous achievement these boys can be proud of for the rest of their lives, and I have confidence they will find success using the lessons they learned while competing in football. Go Chinooks.

HONORING MR. KEITH E. WEST

HON. ELISSA SLOTKIN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 7, 2021

Ms. SLOTKIN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor an essential member of our team that worked to receive vulnerable Afghans as they arrived in Albania, Mr. Keith West.